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## **Sen. Hardiman praises passage of citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act**

**LANSING** — Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, today praised the Senate's passage of the ban on partial-birth abortions and the work of the dedicated activists who made the override possible.

Hardiman said the approval of the Legal Birth Definition Act is a victory for those who collected hundreds of thousands of signatures to enable the Michigan Legislature to override the governor's veto.

"If it weren't for the petition drive, the veto of the ban on this gruesome act would have been final," Hardiman said. "Today we have acted to protect Michigan most vulnerable."

"Today shows how much Michigan residents want to end the practice of partial-birth abortion, despite the committed opposition of the governor and others," Hardiman said.

The Legal Birth Definition Act defines the moment at which a person is considered "born" and therefore eligible for the full protection of the law. Through this definition, partial birth abortions would be banned except in rare cases where the physical health or life of the mother is threatened by delivery.

In *Roe v. Wade* and the legal decisions that followed it, the U.S. Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights, and that a child within his or her mother is not a legally-protected person. However, no court has ever sought to define the term "unborn" or bar states from defining "born." The initiative clarifies this ambiguity, establishing a clear line between when pregnancy ends and birth begins.

"My belief in the sanctity of life is reflected in the words of the Declaration of Independence," Hardiman said. "'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' I voted for the initiative because it upholds this principle."

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**Editor's note: Audio comments from Sen. Hardiman are available on the Senate Majority Multi-Media Link at [senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm](http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm).**